Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9747 INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

CONFIDENTIAL BANGKOK ?780

FOR INGERSOLL AND NOOTER

EO.O. /11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, CB

SUBJECT: STAFFING REQUIREMENTS FOR CAMBODIA

REFS:) PHNOM PENH 149 B) STATE 4680

- 1. OLMSTED WAS IN BANGKOK LAST WEEKEND TO DISCUSS ASPECTS OF REF (A) WITH USOM STAFF. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT FROM A SPACE AND SUPPORT STANDPOINT USOM CAN ARRANGE FOR*HOUSING OF THE ADDITIONAL FAMILIES AND APPROPRIATE OFFICE SPACE FOR THE ADDITIONAL STAFF. THERE WERE ALSO DISCUSSIONS ON LOCAL PERSONNEL REQUIREMENTS WHICH COULD POSSIBLY BE MET OUT OF THOSE THAI EMPLOYEES BEING REFED THIS FY FROM USOM ROLLS. IT WAS MUTUALLY AGREED THAT THE CAMBODIA STAFF WOULD BE SUBJECT TO THE NEW AND MORE STRINGENT USOM SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS BEING PUT INTO EFFECT THIS YEAR. FURTHER, IT WAS AGREED THAT ALL ALLOWANCES FOR PERSONNEL, PLUS RENT ON OFFICE SPACE ACTUALLY OCCUPIED BY THE CAMBODIA SUPPORT STAFF WOULD BE FUNDED BY PHNOM PENH SO THAT THERE WOULD BE NO BAHT CHARGE IMPOSED ON RTG/DTEC AS A RESULT OF THIS MOVE.
- 2. PERMISSION OF RTG FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL BE REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH THIS OFFICE. WE WILL SEEK THIS URGENTLY. WHILE APPROVAL IS LIKELY IT IS BY NO MEANS CERTAIN IN PRESENT POLITICAL CLIMATE.
- 3. I HAVE REVIEWED THIS FROM THE POLITICAL ASPECTS AND HAVE NO CONFIDENTIAL

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OBJECTION TO THE ASSIGNING OF THE SPECIFIED PERSONNEL AND THEIR

FAMILIES TO BANGKOK IF RTG CONCURS. I CONCUR WITH THE USOM POSITION AS EXPRESSED IN PARA ONE. HOWEVER, THIS DOES IMPEL ME TO OBSERVE THAT THIS IS THE FOURTH SEPARATE AID FUNDED GROUP NOW IN BANGKOK (USOM, RED, USAID/LAOS LIAISON OFFICE, AND USAID/CAMBODIA, TO SAY NOTHING OF AID'S REGIONAL IIS AND AAG OFFICES). IN A PERIOD IN WHICH I VERY MUCH DESIRE TO MINIMIZE THE U.S. OFFICIAL PRESENCE IT BEHOOVES US TO CONSOLIDATE THESE OPERATIONS AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. ONE DEVICE THAT COMES TO MIND, OTHER THAN SIMPLE COLOCATION, IS THE AMALGAMATION OF CERTAIN SUPPORT FUNCTIONS AND SERVICES (MANAGE-MENT, LOGISTICS AND PROCUREMENT, FINANCE) INTO AN AID REGIONAL *UP-PORT CENTER. WHETHER IT WOULD SERVE AS A NUCLEUS FOR A BROADER REGIONAL SUPPORT OFFICE IS SOMETHING THAT ALSO SHOLD BE CONSID RED. I AM ASKING ERNST AND HIS STAFF TO LOOK INTO THESE POSSIBILITIES AS THEY PREPARE TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS OF ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE NEW CAMBODIA REQUIREMENTS. KINTNER

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